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rabies infection of wild and domestic animals that is in danger of becoming wide-spread in the far west. The fact that the extensive dissemination of the disease is taking place through the agency of coyotes makes the situation a difficult one to meet. Outbreaks of rabies among coyotes have been noted from time to time for several years in parts of Washington, Oregon and northern Idaho, and the Forest Service undertook last year to aid in bringing the disease under control by employing hunters to make war on coyotes in the National Forests of some infected localities. Since, however, the coyotes breed in the foothills and around the outskirts of the forests, a more comprehensive campaign is called for. The eradication of coyotes in sparsely settled or rough country is said to be an exceedingly difficult task. Inasmuch as these animals are always a source of considerable losses to the livestock industry of the west, congress last year provided a special fund of \$125,000 to be spent by the Biological Survey for the eradication of predatory animals both in the national forests and on the public domain, and from this fund a special allotment has now been made to provide for fighting the rabies. The disease first appeared in parts of eastern Oregon and Washington and northern Idaho, in a region surrounded by natural barriers which tended to confine the outbreak. Domestic animals and human beings were bitten, and a good deal of alarm was manifested by residents of the infected districts, many of whom feared for the safety of their children on the roads to and from school. The disease is now reported as having extended into northern Nevada and northern California, whence it may easily be carried far. The Forest Service, the Biological Survey and the State Board of Health are working together to meet the situation in California. Modoc and Lassen counties have been put under quarantine by the state board, which has appointed forest rangers inspectors in Modoc County. Funds have been provided by the Biological Survey for the employment of additional men and the purchase of traps and poison. The public will be enlisted in the campaign, which will be led by the Biological Survey officials and the forest rangers.

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY has purchased twelve acres of land adjoining its present site and increasing it from 23 to 35 acres. The amount paid for the land is not made public, but the tax valuation is \$230,000.

FOUR business men of Portland have contributed \$25,000 toward the new buildings for the Medical Department of the University of Oregon, Portland. This makes available the \$50,000 appropriated by the state. The officers of the college now propose to raise an additional \$100,000.

OVER \$3,500 worth of chemicals, scientific glassware and other laboratory supplies ordered by the University of Washington from Germany a year ago, but held up at Rotterdam, will shortly reach this country. The British embassy has advised government officials that importation will not be prevented any longer.

A RECENT fire is said to have caused \$50,000 damage to the Havemeyer chemical laboratory of New York University.

DR. OWEN L. SHINN, professor of chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed director of the university summer school.

THE following new appointments have been made in the Western Reserve Medical School: Dr. J. Rogoff, formerly of the department of physiology and pharmacology, Vanderbilt Medical School, Nashville, to be instructor in experimental medicine; Dr. C. H. Fiske, formerly assistant in biological chemistry, Harvard Medical School, to be associate in biochemistry; Dr. R. W. Scott, formerly demonstrator of medicine, Western Reserve University, to be instructor in physiology.

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## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE DETERMINATION OF NITRATES IN SOILS

IN the June number of the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* appeared an interesting article by E. R. Allen, of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, en-